



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bishop Calls for Extended Comment Period for Montauk Highway Reconstruction

CORAM, NY -- In a letter today to the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Congressman Tim Bishop called for an extended public comment period on plans to reconstruct Montauk Highway (County Road 80). Bishop has met recently with a number of local groups who have expressed concerns about various alternatives to reconstruct the road, including the Montauk Highway Merchants Association and first responders from Mastic, Mastic Beach and Shirley.

Given the importance of improving Montauk Highway, Bishop worked to secure \$6.4 million for the project. However, Bishop wants to ensure that all community concerns are addressed before the project proceeds.

"I secured significant federal funding for this project, because we all agree that we need to improve Montauk Highway," Bishop said. "I want to make sure this project reflects the will and wisdom of the community."

For example, when Bishop met with first responders at the Mastic Fire Department last week, they raised concerns that roundabouts and raised medians in one of the proposed plans will make it more difficult to respond to emergencies.

A copy of the letter follows:

Mr. Charles Bartha, Commissioner
Suffolk County Department of Public Works
335 Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980

Dear Commissioner Bartha,

I am writing to request that you reopen the public comment period for the County Road 80 (Montauk Highway) project that is currently under consideration by the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. We share the goal of providing the best transportation alternatives for our constituents, and I believe that extending the comment period for this vitally important project will further that goal.

There is widespread agreement in the community that County Road 80 needs to be improved, and I was proud to secure \$6.4 million in the recently passed federal transportation bill for this project. However, during the past few months, numerous concerned constituents and organizations, including local first responders, have approached me with strong concerns regarding the potential design of the project.

Given the importance of this project, and the wide range of public opinion, I urge you to reopen the public comment period for the Montauk Highway project to ensure that the final plan represents the will of the community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship on behalf of Suffolk County residents. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

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